

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. O'Neill, Senator DeLuca, Rep. Labriola Announce State Grants To Preserve Open Space In Oxford, Southbury



State Representatives Arthur O'Neill, R-69, David Labriola, R-131 and State Senator Louis C. DeLuca, R-32nd, today announced the State of Connecticut has awarded the Town of Oxford \$214,518 toward the purchase of 66 acres that will be used for open space preservation and recreation purposes.

Oxford is currently in the process of purchasing 98 acres of the Tetlak Estate. Today's award allows for the purchase of additional adjacent property, some of which will be used for active recreation purposes. A distinguishing feature of the estate is the Eight Mile Brook that traverses the property.

The State also awarded \$331,312 to the Southbury Land Trust for the purchase of 41 acres of the Mitchell's Farm property. The acquisition is an initial proposal in preserving the 1759 Mitchell Farm, whose 470 acres are located along the Housatonic River. The acquisition connects to existing open space and agricultural lands.

Preserving open space in rural Connecticut is the effort to maintain and protect our history and our heritage," said Senator DeLuca. "Both of these open space projects were spearheaded by local citizens who wanted to preserve the natural beauty and unique aesthetic quality of small town Connecticut for all its future residents. I am glad that the state was able to step in and help with funding for these very worthwhile efforts."

"Open space preservation is our legacy to future generations and maintains the rural character of the community," said Rep. Labriola. "I'm delighted for the people of Oxford and Southbury who will enjoy these pristine lands."

"Preserving open space, especially in Connecticut is a priority," said Representative O'Neill. "The scenic nature of the land in and around our towns is one of our greatest resources, and we must protect it."

The grants are among more than 30 awarded today and are administered by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). They are awarded to projects that add to a community's open space, enhance recreation in the area, protect unique geographical features or assist long-term acquisition plans. All applications are judged on the basis of the criteria and scoring system established for the program by the DEP and the standard

established by the Natural Heritage, Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Review Board.